

Title: Resolution to Encourage EPA to Utilize its Administrative Authority to Update Alaska's Human Health Criteria based on an Increased Estimated Fish Consumption Rate and more Protective Cancer Risk Value.

Testimonials:

Whereas, the State of Alaska has the authority to control the discharge of contaminants into the aquatic environment based on Human Health Criteria under the Clean Water Act, and;

Whereas, many of these contaminants bioaccumulate in the food chain and end up in the fish and water consumed by the citizens of Alaska and may or may not be carcinogenetic, and;

Whereas, the Clean Water Act prescribes a formula to limit the amount of these contaminants in fresh and marine waters based partially on an estimation of the amount of fish residents consume and an acceptable risk of contracting cancer created by these contaminants, and;

Whereas, the federal agency with oversight responsibility for the Clean Water Act is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the EPA recommends that the fish consumption rate is set based on local data, and;

Whereas, Alaska instead uses a fish consumption rate based on an outdated national survey of 6.5 grams/day/person (g/d/p), and;

Whereas, the current national estimate is 22g/p/d and EPA recommends 142.4 g for populations that utilize subsistence resources and that both Oregon and Washington States are adopting or in the process of adopting 175g/d/p as a reasonable fish consumption rate, and;

Whereas, most States use a cancer risk value of 1:1,000,000, Alaska is ten-fold less protective with a rate of 1:100,000, and;

Whereas, some local data indicates an Alaska specific fish consumption value would be closer to 240g/d/p, and;

Whereas, the State has failed to act to resolve this discrepancy for over 15 years, and has indicated it will not raise the Fish Consumption Rate until 2018 at the earliest, and;

Whereas, if and when the State does update these factors it must then go through an implementation period to assure compliance with new criteria.

Therefore be it Resolved;

The _____ petitions EPA to use its administrative authority under the Clean Water Act to increase Alaska's Human Health Criteria based on a Fish Consumption Rate of 175g/d/p as an interim step until such time as local data may be collected, and;

Be it Resolved that EPA use its authority to increase the acceptable risk of cancer to 1:1,000,000, and;

Furthermore, be it resolved that Alaska work with industry to implement these changes in a timely fashion.

Signed

Witnessed